## Physiological Protection Against Chemical and Biological Agents

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# Problem

### Chemical/Biological:Warfare

- Weapon of mass destruction (strategic)
- Incapacitate or kill enemy forces (tactical)
- Reduce operational effectiveness
- · Deprive enemy access to territory, equipment
- Crop, farm animal destruction
- Terrorism

#### Goal

Developing convenient, reliable individual protection against toxic chemical and biological agents targeting personnel

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## CW/BW Agent Physical **Properties Deployable Physical States** Vapor • Aerosols – Neat - Thickened Dry Powders - "dust" microencapsulation JON - INCLUDE DEGINITION/ DESCRIPTION of NEAT? HOW'VE DEGINED ALL DTHER STATES. CW/BW Agent Physical Properties **Thickening** Controls particle size by slowing evaporation and increasing resistance to shear forces - Reduces rates of droplet spread & surface penetration (esp. important for percutaneous transport) - Makes decontamination more difficult Dust/Microencapsulation - Enhance agent airway transport by carrier material - Reduces environmental degradation of agent Factors affecting CW/BW agent effectiveness • Atmospheric Conditions · Agent Physiochemical Properties · Biological Factors

## Factors affecting CW/BW agent effectiveness

#### **Atmospheric Conditions**

- temperature
- humidity
- wind
- sunlight
- UV strength
- precipitation

# Factors affecting CW/BW agent effectiveness

#### **Agent Physiochemical Properties**

- Chemical Composition
- Reactivity
- Concentration
- Water/Lipid Solubility
- Particulates
  - Aerodynamic Diameter - Size distribution - shape - surface area

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Uport TO INCLUDE A SUB-BULLET
OR TWO SIMILAR TO PARTICULATES!

## Chemical Agent Physical Properties

- Nerve [sarin (GB), soman (GD), V-agents] liquid/thickened, highly volatile (exc. V-agents)
- Blister [mustard (H/HD), Lewisite (L)] liquid/thickened/solid, generally volatile
- Choking [phosgene (CG)] liquid, highly volatile
- Blood [hydrogen cyanide (AC)] liquid, extremely volatile
- <u>Psychoactive</u> [2-quinuclidinyl benzilate (BZ)] liquid, slight volatility

## Factors affecting CW/BW agent effectiveness

### Biological Properties

- Absorption Pathway
- Physiological State (age, weight, exposed surface area, etc.)
- Health
- Physiological neutralization
- Contact Time

# Factors determining BW agent effectiveness

- · Small aerosol dose produces infection/intoxication
- Infection or intoxication causes incapacitation or death
- Agent produced easily & cheaply in significant quantities
- · Agent stable when dispersed
- · Symptoms difficult to detect and treat
- · Real-time detection unavailable

## Biological Agent Physical Properties

#### Potential Bacterial Agents

- Anthrax\*
- Plague\*
- Tularemia\*
- Brucellosis\*
- \* Likely militarized agent posing significant threat

## Biological Agent Physical Properties

### Potential Viral Agents

- Smallpox\*
- Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE)\*
- Q fever\*
- Ebola
- Marburg virus
  - \* Likely militarized agent posing significant

### Biological Agent Physical Properties

#### Potential Biological Toxin Agents

- Botulinum\*
- Ricin\*
- Staphylococcal Enterotoxin B (SEB)\*
- Aflatoxin
- Tricothecene
- Likely militarized agent posing significant threat

### Site of action, biological toxins

#### **Toxins**

- · cholera acts on intestines, incap.
- · Botulinum inhibits ACh
- SEB paralyzes smooth muscle, incap at μg, kills >
- saxitoxin nerve ion transp., paralyzing & kills
- tetrodotoxin muscle ion transp., kills by respir. failure
- · aflatoxin hemorrage, fatal
- ricin

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#### BW dose-response relationship Effective human dose Time to effect/effect Bacteria ~3,000 organisms Plague 1-5 days/ lethal Anthrax > 8,000 spores 1-5 days/ lethal 1-10 days/incapac., Tularemia 10-100 organisms Viruses\_ Smallpox 1-10 viral particles 6-12 days/ lethal 1-10 viral particles VEE 2-5 days/incapac. Toxins Botulinum 0.0048 mg < 1-2 days/ lethal SEB 1-6 hrs/incapac.

minutes/ lethal

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### Physiological Pathways

· Respiratory Tract

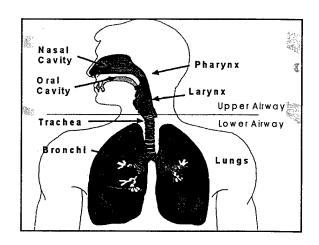
Saxitoxin

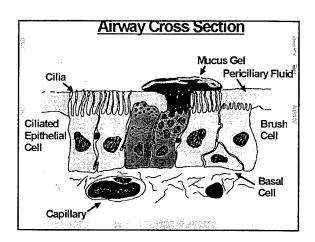
- chemical agents
- bacteria (anthrax, plague)
- viruses (*VEE*)
- Toxins
- Percutaneous
  - chemical agents - bacteria (tularemia)
  - viruses (smallpox)
- Other pathways (Ocular, Ingestion)

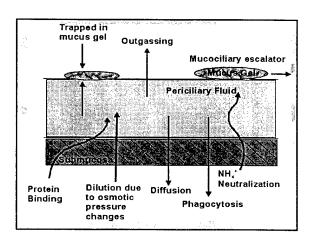
### Physiological Pathways

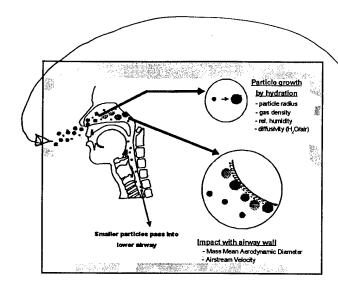
#### Physiological factors influencing airway deposition and absorption

- breathing frequency
- tidal volume
- minute ventilation
- mucociliary transport
- submucosal blood flow
- metabolism (NH3 production)

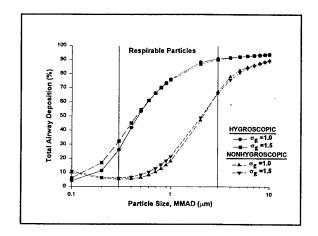



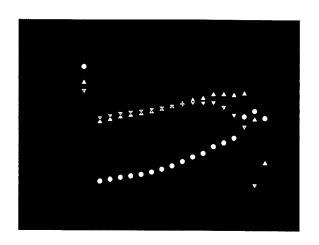






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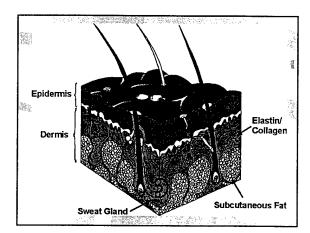




### Physiological Pathways

## Physiological factors influencing percutaneous absorption

- Exposed surface area
- skin integrity (open wounds, lesions)
- skin thickness (subcutaneous fat)
- surface moisture (sweat)
- subdurmal blood flow
- agent transport mechanisms (diffusion, active transport, facilitated diffusion)



### **Future Issues**

- · What new agents are being developed?
- What are potential new delivery methods?
- Can new agents or modified "classical" agents defeat protective measures? (equipment, materials, detectors, medical treatments)
- What new protective techniques will work against burgeoning threat?

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